

in the near future that will make meaningful cuts and long-lasting reforms.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH SUDAN'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Republic of South Sudan on achieving their independence. This is a long awaited step for a nation that has experienced many years of struggle and strife.

South Sudan has fought for their independence for a long time: first from Egypt and the United Kingdom, which was achieved in 1956, and then years of civil war with Northern Sudan that culminated with the horrific genocide in Darfur. Thanks to the efforts of Secretary of State Colin Powell in 2005, an end to civil war was reached and the framework for an independent Southern Sudan was established.

There are many people who deserve credit for fostering this momentous occasion. I thank President Barack Obama and Vice-President JOE BIDEN for their leadership in rallying the international community to push this referendum through; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for helping broker peace in the region; Ambassador Susan Rice for building support for South Sudan in the United Nations; and Special Envoy Princeton Lyman, his predecessor, Scott Gration, and numerous other U.S. Government officials who worked tirelessly to bring peace and independence to a troubled region.

A special word of praise goes out to the tireless efforts of dozens of American diplomats who, in the face of considerable danger, have been on the ground throughout Sudan. They helped to forge independence for South Sudan through guidance, advice, and collaboration with both sides and helped facilitate negotiations that culminated in the referendum for South Sudan's independence. Our heroic diplomats will continue to remain in both countries to support them through this time of transition.

The United States has worked long and hard for this moment. Our commitment, however, does not end with the declaration. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the State Department in helping the new African nation establish their economy, strengthen their democracy and meet the needs of the people. This is a joyous event for South Sudan and an inspiration to the world for achieving peace and stability.

HONORING CORPORAL FRANK GROSS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, sacrifice, and heroism of Army Corporal Frank Gross, of Oldsmar, Florida.

CPL Gross, a member of the 38th Cavalry Regiment, lost his life on July 16th in Khost,

Afghanistan, when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an improvised explosive device.

As Vice-Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I constantly find myself in awe of the sacrifices and efforts that are made on behalf of our great country by the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Armed Services. CPL Gross personified this dedication by postponing a bright career to enlist in the United States Army and follow in the footsteps of his grandfathers into military service.

Outside of the Army, Frank was an outstanding baseball player who attended college on a baseball scholarship. Off of the baseball diamond, CPL Gross demonstrated a talented artistic ability and ultimately earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Full Sail University in digital arts and entertainment business.

Mr. Speaker, though proud to have such a fine example from the Tampa Bay community, it is with great remorse that I rise to commemorate the life of CPL Gross. As I stated, I am in awe of the young men and women, such as Frank Gross, who choose to serve alongside their countrymen in our military. As professionals in all that they do, they exhibit honor, courage, and commitment in every pursuit. Their sacrifices, such as that made by CPL Gross, will not be forgotten.

COMMENDING J.J. O'CONNOR AND THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1918 TRENCH FEVER STUDY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the American soldiers who participated in the 1918 Trench Fever study, conducted by the American Red Cross. Their service was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, Eugene O'Connor, whose father, Joseph John O'Connor, served as a private in the U.S. Army during World War I and participated in the study.

After volunteering along with 19 other American soldiers, Pvt. O'Connor, at the time only 19 years old, was selected to participate in the study to determine the causes and progression of trench fever, an illness that was one of the most prevalent diseases amongst soldiers during World War I. From 1915 to 1918, nearly 1 million soldiers became ill from trench fever, many of whom remained ill for months.

On February 23, 1918, Pvt. O'Connor was directly injected with 15 c.c. of plasma from soldiers suffering from trench fever, eventually becoming severely ill while researchers documented the progression, effects, and transmission of the disease. After two continuous months of the illness, and having suffered from its debilitating effects, Pvt. O'Connor recovered and returned to the front lines as an ambulance driver and stretch-bearer until the end of the war.

Mr. Speaker, Pvt. O'Connor and the other soldiers who participated in the Trench Fever study were never recognized, compensated, or acknowledged for their sacrifice. They deserve to be properly recognized for the courage and sacrifice they made to help doctors understand and treat a disease afflicting their fellow soldiers. Because of their participation,

this illness has been all but eradicated in modern times. We owe Joseph John O'Connor and these other brave men a debt of gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. DENT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 601 and 602: I regret that I was unavoidably absent on Monday, July 18, 2011, due to a family obligation. Had I been present for the two votes which occurred, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 33, rollcall No. 601 and "aye" on Approving the Journal, rollcall No. 602.

RECOGNIZING THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S ILLEGAL IN- VASION OF CYPRUS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2011

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 37th anniversary of Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus. I hope that my colleagues in the House of Representatives will join me in calling for an end to this occupation.

On July 20th 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in violation of international law and at great cost to the citizens of Cyprus. Turkish troops established a heavily-armed force which occupied the northern part of Cyprus and continues to occupy close to 37 percent of Cyprus' territory. The invasion forced nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee their homes and made one-third of the Cypriot population refugees in their own country.

Turkey continues to illegally occupy northern Cyprus with a force of approximately 43,000 troops. This incredible number of troops amounts to almost one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots. The military occupation of northern Cyprus continues in the face of international pressure to achieve a peaceful settlement.

While military occupation of northern Cyprus continues to be a constant threat to peace, the forcible expulsion of Greek Cypriots and U.S. citizens has resulted in the mass colonization of their homes and property. At the time of the invasion this amounted to almost one-third of the total population of the island being expelled and having their property taken. Once again this illegal colonization comes in defiance of international calls on Turkey to take action to stop the illegal occupation and ensure the return of properties to their rightful owners.

In fact, since 1974 more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the U.N. General Assembly calling for a withdrawal of Turkish troops and the return of refugees to their rightful homes. However, the Turkish government continues to remain defiant, plainly ignoring these calls to withdraw and continuing to display blatant disrespect towards Greek Cypriots and their property.

We continue to see Turkey pursuing policies that not only hurt its relations with nations that